



Electronic Industries Alliance

Dave McCurdy
President

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The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. President:

I know you share the belief of the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA) that the best hope for the U.S. to maintain its edge against rising global competition is by fostering and expanding our most prized intellectual asset: innovation. As you look to the year ahead, we see an opportunity to make 2006 the year of innovation, and I would encourage you to use the upcoming State of the Union Address to promote this worthy goal to the nation.

EIA comprises nearly 1,300 companies at the forefront of the information technology, telecommunications, semiconductor, defense, space, and research and development fields. While the companies we represent may cover a broad swath of industry, the one goal they all share is a robust landscape for U.S. innovation. Nearly three years ago, EIA began to look closely at the significant structural changes taking place in the world economy and in the high-tech industry in particular, and since that time we have devoted our organization's resources to promoting a national vision and strategy on innovation and global competitiveness.

We are thrilled to see our initiative, *The Technology Industry at an Innovation Crossroads*, resonating with so many of our nation's elected leaders on both sides of the aisle. Hardly a day goes by now without a federal-level forum, Congressional hearing or speech promoting research & development, math and science education, a reasonable tax and regulatory landscape, sensible visa policy and homegrown innovation.

In a time when budgetary concerns, trade tensions and the ongoing War on Terrorism consume the attention of the White House and Congress, we realize that making innovation and U.S. competitiveness policy topic #1 is no easy task. But it must occur. The call for a national innovation vision and strategy is no less urgent today that it was when we began our work three years ago, and we commend the thoughtful ideas that have been presented by policymakers and thought leaders within your Administration.

We are making progress – and we appreciate the positive steps your Administration has taken and the increased focus of so many of the key federal agencies on this critical issue – but there is still much that can be done and should be done to ensure U.S. innovation primacy. We look forward to continuing to work with you and with the Members of Congress to promote workable, pragmatic policies. If there is any way in which EIA can serve as a resource to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave McCurdy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "D".

Dave McCurdy